Implementation of Kayamkulam Power Project

580. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposal from Kerala Government to implement a new power project in the Kayamkulam Power Project complex utilizing the idle land and infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has requested for expansion of the on-going Kayamkulam power project. The question of liquified fuel linkages & lack of other inputs for the project are relevant factors to be considered.

Research in development neurobiology

581. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Biotechnology has taken up the project known as "Research in developmental neurobiology"; -

(b) if so, what is being done in this project;

(c) what are the future plans under this project; and

(d) how will this project benefit the general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes Sir. The project titled "Research in developmental neurobiology" has been implemented at the All Indian Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi, for a period of five years starting from March, 1993.

(b) and (c) The objectives of the project are to study the effects of the various physical, chemical and biological factors on the development of nervous system in suitable animal models. There are five sub-projects on:

Development of Mu opioid in the human spinal cord; study of development of auditory pathways of the chick under conditions of prenatal sound attenuation and overstimulation; in-situ hybridization and immunohistochemical studies on GABAergic and peptidergic neurons of developing monkey visual cortex; effect of prenatal nicotine on developing nervous system; and neural transplantation as a model for neurobiological Stydy.

The proejet is in its last year of implementation. The date will be analysed and extrapolation of same for clinical subject would be assessed.

(d) The science that has been generated out of this proejet has great relevance in drawing conclusion on the effect of various environmental factors (physico-chemical and biological) on the development of nervous system at prenatal and postnatal stages. It also indicates the changes taking place in some parts of the brain and spinal cord as the age advances. The science of aging has become very important all over the world. Such studies have long gestation period. A part of the project is looking

into transplantation of neural tissue. This has a wider scope in cases of brain, spinal cord or neural injury due to accidents or associated with age related neural disorders. Very important data has been generated on these aspects of societal relevance.